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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

CROPS, MECHANIZATION, IRRIGATION, RURAL ELECTRIFICATION,
SPECIALIST TRAINING IN USSR AGRICULTURE

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

USSR

An article by S. Ushakov and K. Abramov titled "Machine-Tractor Stations and Their Role in the Development of Cotton Growing" contained the following information:

The first MTS in the cotton-growing regions of the USSR were created in 1929. By 1 June 1930, there were 17 MTS in these regions and in 1932 there were 237. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, there were 360 MTS in the Central Asian republics, including 189 in Uzbekistan. Now, there are about 700 MTS in the system of the Ministry of Cotton Growing USSR; these MTS service more than 5,500 cotton-growing kolkhozes with more than 9 million hectares of land.

In 1952, various operations in the cotton-growing regions were mechanized as follows: plowing 100 percent, planting and cultivation 98 percent, application of mineral fertilizers and harvesting 85 percent. MTS also extended much aid to kolkhozes in preparing new land for use, enlarging fields, and converting the irrigation system. During the last 2 years, MTS moved more than 184 million cubic meters of earth in connection with conversion to the new irrigation system.(1)

As a result of consolidation, there are now 97,000 kolkhozes in the USSR as compared with 254,000 in 1950.(2)

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Estonian SSR

Collectivization was basically completed in the republic in 1950. During the last 2 years, the sown area has increased by 24 percent in kolkhozes of the republic. The tractor park in MTS of the republic is now 12 times as great as in 1945. In sovkhoses, there is one tractor per 80 hectares of plowland.(3)

Latvian SSR

In 1952, most kolkhozes of Daugavpilsskaya Oblast harvested 4-5 quintals of flax per hectare. In 1952, three mechanized land-improvement stations drained thousands of hectares of swampy land. In future years, this land will be added to the sown area.(4)

Ukrainian SSR

At the plenum of TsK, KP of the Ukraine, Kal'chenko, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers Ukrainian SSR reported that kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic had a rich harvest, especially of grain; the republic delivered 66.6 million more pud of wheat to the state in 1952 than in 1951.(5)

An article by A. Vlasenko, Minister of State Farms Ukrainian SSR, titled "Towards a New Rise in Sovkhoz Production" contained the following information:

The prewar sown area has been fully restored in the republic. The area sown to winter wheat has increased by almost 2 million hectares as compared with 1940, that sown to sugar beets has increased by 84,000 hectares. In area devoted to cotton, the Ukraine now occupies second place (next to Uzbekistan) in the Soviet Union. The Ukraine is the main area growing cotton on non-irrigated land.

In 1951, 98 percent of all spring grain crops were sown on winter fallow; 52 percent of all winter crops were sown on summer fallow and 25 percent on land which had been occupied by perennial grasses.

In 1951, the yield of grain crops increased by 43 percent as compared with 1950 and exceeded the prewar level by 13 percent.(6)

As of 10 December, many sugar beets were still lying on the fields of kolkhozes in Poltavskaya, Sumskaya, and Kirovogradskaya oblasts.(7)

In 1952, kolkhozes of Zhitomirskaya Oblast grew a flax crop twice as great as in 1951. They fulfilled the plan for flax fiber delivery on 20 December. The plan for flax seed procurement was fulfilled 133 percent in the oblast. Deliveries of both fiber and flax are continuing.(8)

Sumskaya Oblast has fulfilled the 1952 plan for delivery of hemp far ahead of schedule; on the day of fulfillment of the plan, 2,181 more metric tons had been delivered to procurement points than as of the same date in 1951. All kolkhozes exceeded the quality indexes: on the average, the fiber was No 6.9 as compared with No 5.2 planned.(9)

The Nizovskaya Hydroelectric Power Station is located on the Psel River in Sumskaya Oblast; it is one of the largest in the oblast and enables the village of Niza and adjoining villages to have electric lights.

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In 1952, 25 hydroelectric power stations and seven stations operating on peat were built and put into operation in the Ukrainian SSR. There are now 4,770 rural electric power stations in the republic.(10)

Georgian SSR

The harvesting of citrus fruits has begun in kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Adzharskaya ASSR, Abkhazskaya ASSR, and Kutaiskaya Oblast. About 130 million tangerines, lemons, and oranges have already been picked; 103 million of the tangerines were grown in Adzharskaya ASSR, while most of the lemons were grown in Kutaiskaya Oblast and most of the oranges in Abkhazskaya ASSR.(11)

Armenian SSR

An article titled "Rural Electric Power Stations Not Operating at Full Capacity" contained the following information:

Two thirds of the kolkhozes in the Armenian SSR have been electrified. About 4,500 kilometers of electric power lines have been built to supply kolkhozes and the rural population with power. Hundreds of electric motors have been installed in kolkhozes, MTS, MZNS (mechanized animal husbandry stations), and sovkhoses; more than 150,000 electric lights are burning in the villages. By the end of 1952, rural hydroelectric power stations will have produced more than 26 million kilowatt-hours of power, almost twice as much as in 1951.

Serious shortcomings exist in the republic in connection with rural electrification. The capacity of rural electric power stations is increasing more rapidly than the introduction of electricity into kolkhoz production operations. In 1951, the rural stations were in operation, on the average, only 1,495 hours in the course of the entire year. There is little improvement in rural station operation in 1952. Thus, agriculture of the republic has failed to receive tens of millions of kilowatt-hours of electric power.(8)

Azerbaijani SSR

Azerbaijani is the only place in the Soviet Union where saffron, a valuable food and medicinal crop, is grown. As a result of careful application of agrotechniques by kolkhozes and sovkhoses in growing this crop, the 1952 plan for procurement of saffron was fulfilled 123 percent. As compared with 1951, procurement increased by more than 30 percent.(12)

RSFSR

During the postwar period, grain sowing more than doubled in sovkhoses of Chkalovskaya Oblast; the sowing of spring wheat was especially expanded so that in 1952 spring wheat occupied an area six times as great as in 1946.(13)

During the postwar period, the area devoted to orchards and berry gardens in the southern Urals almost doubled and now includes 1,500 hectares.(14)

According to preliminary data, the average yield of spiced grain crops in kolkhozes of Krasnodarskiy Kray was 134 pud per hectare.(5)

During the last 3 years, the tractor park of Tambovskaya Oblast increased by almost 50 percent and the number of combines almost doubled. More than 90 percent of field operations have been mechanized.(15)

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In the spring of 1952, 100,000 hectares of arid land in the Volga-Don Canal zone of Rostovskaya Oblast received water. By the spring of 1953, construction of irrigation systems which will permit irrigation of an additional 100,000 hectares in Rostovskaya Oblast, and 25,000 hectares in Stalingradskaya Oblast, are to be completed.(11)

The plenum of the Kirovskaya Oblast Party Committee discussed the subject of agricultural cadres. There are serious shortcomings in the matter of selecting and training cadres. Often men without the necessary political and occupational qualifications are appointed as kolkhoz chairmen. There are few agricultural specialists among kolkhoz chairmen.(16)

In recent years, a large number of young agricultural specialists, who are institute and tekhnikum graduates, have been sent to MTS, rayon agricultural divisions, and kolkhozes of Kurskaya Oblast. In 1952 alone, 170 agronomists with higher or secondary educations, 9 engineers, and 48 technicians and mechanics have been sent to rayon agricultural divisions and MTS of the oblast.(9)

Kazakh SSR

Since the beginning of 1952, 36 rural electric power plants have been built and more than 1,100 electric motors installed in Kazakhstan, mainly in the southeastern oblasts. Rural electrification organizations have pledged to install at least 300 more motors by the end of the year. There are now 1,336 electric power stations and more than 6,000 electric motors in villages and settlements of the republic.(9)

In Alma-Atinskaya Oblast, every third kolkhoz has agronomists and zootechnic experts with secondary or higher specialized education among its supervisory personnel.(11)

Uzbek SSR

The cotton growers of Surkhan-Dar'inskaya Oblast fulfilled the 1952 plan for cotton procurement on 20 December; 80 percent of the crop delivered by kolkhozes and sovkhoses was first grade. The oblast has also successfully fulfilled the plan for grain procurement.(1)

Turkmen SSR

The cotton growers of Maryyskaya Oblast fulfilled the state plan for cotton procurement on 9 December. The oblast is endeavoring to deliver as much as 8,000-10,000 metric tons of cotton in excess of plan.(17)

Tadzhik SSR

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic fulfilled the 1952 plan for delivery of cotton to the state 21 days earlier than in 1951. The highest yield in the republic was obtained by Kolkhoz imeni Dzerzhinskiy in Gissarskiy Rayon, where 43.3 quintals per hectare were grown on an area of 560 hectares. Harvesting of cotton is continuing in the republic.(18)

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